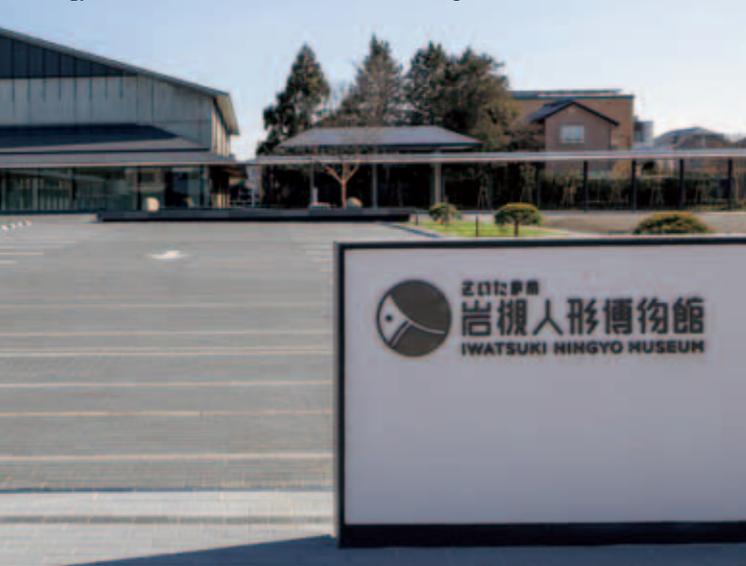


On February 22, 2020, the Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum opened in the city of Saitama, in the historic *ningyo* district of Iwatsuki. The Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum collects, conserves, and carries out research on *ningyo* (human figures) and the culture of *ningyo* and, through exhibitions and educational activities, carries out programs to enable more people to become familiar with this craft and its culture.

Our goal as a museum is to be a facility that anyone can freely enjoy, to provide an overview of the beauty and history of *ningyo*, in the context of Japanese culture, and to inform the world about that *ningyo* culture in all its fascination and depth.



## Japan's Ningyo



*Ningyo* is a Japanese term that means "human form." While often translated as "doll," the implications of *ningyo* are far deeper. They were originally created in a religious context, with *ningyo* substituting for living people in rituals. Over time, however, the roles of *ningyo* expanded. In the Edo period (1603–1868), *ningyo* had become objects of appreciation and affection, having developed into an auspicious and enchanting presences. The outstanding examples of that evolution are the *hina ningyo*, miniature *ningyo* that are displayed during the Hina Matsuri.

Since about the 1920s, *ningyo* have also been regarded as an art form, and Japan's distinctive, and diverse, *ningyo* culture has continued to develop.

Goshou ningyo, A Cockfight, Edo period

[ Guide to the Museum ]

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Last admission 30 minutes before closing.)

**Closing days:** Mondays (except national holidays) and the New Year's holiday period (December 28 to January 4)

\*The museum may have other special opening or closing days.

**Admission Ticket:**

General: ¥300 (Group of 20 or more: ¥200, Yearly Pass: ¥1,030)

High school / university students and persons over 65: ¥150 (Group of 20 or more: ¥100, Yearly Pass: ¥510)

Elementary school and junior high school students: ¥100 (Group of 20 or more: ¥50, Yearly Pass: ¥300)

\*Admission is half price for persons with a disability certificate and one accompanying person.

\*Admission fee varies depending on the exhibition.



[ Access ]

### ●By train

10 minutes' walk from Iwatsuki Station, Tobu Urban Park Line (Noda Line)

\*Iwatsuki Station is about 12 minutes from Omiya Station.

### ●By car

5.5 kilometers from the Iwatsuki exit on the Tohoku Expressway (about 12 minutes' drive)

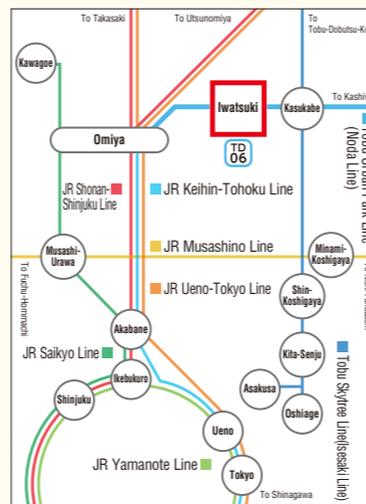
\*The museum has parking for 28 standard cars, 2 parking places for wheelchair use, and 2 parking places for large buses. Its parking area is shared with the Nigiwai Koryukan Iwatsuki next door.



岩槻人形博物館  
IWATSUKI NINGYO MUSEUM

6-1-1, Honcho, Iwatsuki Ward, Saitama City,  
Saitama Prefecture 339-0057, Japan  
Tel. +81-(0)48-749-0222 Fax. +81-(0)48-749-0225

<https://ningyo-muse.jp/>



岩槻人形博物館  
IWATSUKI NINGYO MUSEUM

English

# Welcome to the Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum



[ Facilities ]

Site area: 7,543.41㎡ / Total floor area: 2,029.07㎡

Structure: Reinforced concrete; partly steel frame

Floors: 1 aboveground floor

Facilities: Exhibition Rooms 1-3, Meeting Room, Museum Shop

## Iwatsuki, Ningyo City

During the Edo period (1603–1868), the custom of observing the Hina Matsuri (an annual celebration for girls on the third day of the third month, featuring a set of *hina ningyo*, small human figurines) spread widely. In response, markets for *hina ningyo* (as well as for the figures and decorative armor displayed during the boys' celebration on the fifth of the fifth month) were established in central Nihombashi and other locations in Edo. With that blossoming of *ningyo* culture in Edo, craftsmen in villages such as Konosu and Koshigaya in Musashi province (which includes today's Saitama Prefecture) began making *ningyo* to meet the rising demand.

Iwatsuki became a *ningyo* production center in earnest from the Taisho period (1912–1926) on. Both the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 and World War II spurred the inflow of technical skills to Iwatsuki from Tokyo. During Japan's period of rapid economic growth, Iwatsuki grew into a major center for the production of *ningyo*. Today, a stroll through this neighborhood will reveal signs for many *ningyo* shops and workshops, giving a clear sense of Iwatsuki as *ningyo* city.

Cover: Inubako cases, Edo period



The street in front of Iwatsuki Station in the 1960s or 1970s



Ningyo heads on sticks, inserted into straw posts



Saitama City

## Exhibition Guide

### Exhibition Room 1: *Ningyo* Production in Saitama

Saitama Prefecture is Japan's largest producer of *ningyo*. This exhibition room introduces how *ningyo* are made, with a focus on *ningyo* from Iwatsuki. In addition to exhibitions of the tools and materials used in creating *ningyo*, *ningyo* made in Saitama, and reference materials, videos are screened of craftspersons making *ningyo*.

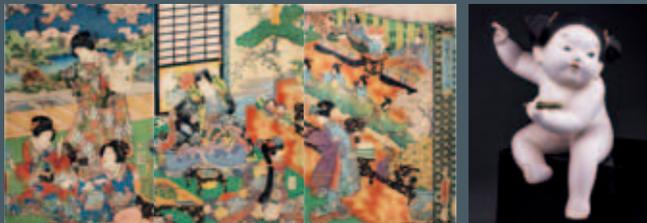
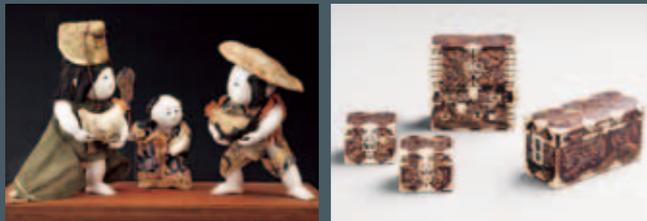


Brushes used in making *ningyo*

Painting the features in making *ningyo*

### Exhibition Room 2: Japan's *Ningyo* from the Collection

This exhibition room displays a cornucopia of Japanese *ningyo* from the museum collection. *Hina ningyo*, *goshō ningyo*, *kamo ningyo*: enjoy them in all their variety.



Upper left: *Goshō ningyo*, *A Cockfight*, Edo period

Upper right: Accessories for *hina ningyo*, of *maki-e* lacquer, rosewood, and ivory, Edo period

Lower left: Ukiyo-e, *Triptych of Prints Depicting Hina Matsuri Celebrations*, by Utagawa Kunisada (Toyokuni III), 1861

Lower right: *Boy Playing the Flute*, by Noguchi Mitsuhiro, 1956

### Exhibition Room 3: Special Exhibitions

The museum holds special exhibitions related to *ningyo*. For details, please check the museum website or ask at its information counter.

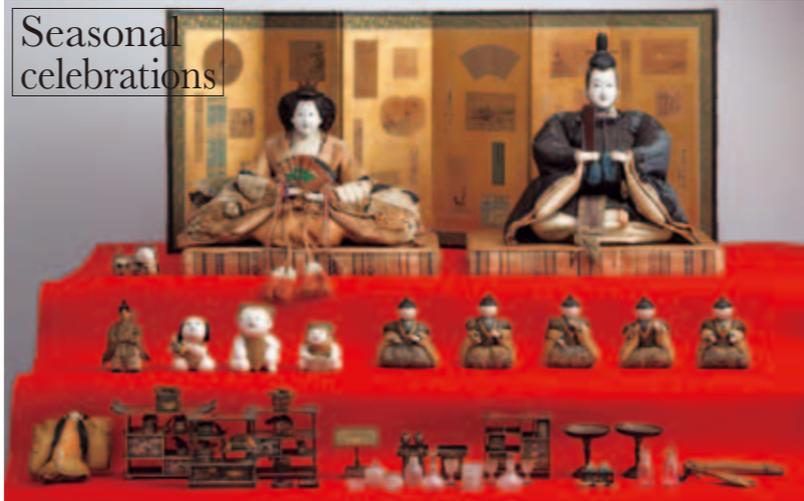
\*Works on display are subject to change.

\*The exhibition room may be closed when works on display are being changed.

## The Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum Collection

The Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum collection includes a wide range of *ningyo*, from Japan and abroad, and materials related to *ningyo*.

### Seasonal celebrations



Tiered *hina* display (Upper level: *Inubako* case and *hina ningyo*, *kokin-bina* style; middle level: Guard, small, curled up *tsukune goshō ningyo*, and five musicians; lower level: *Hoko* and accessories for *hina ningyo*), Edo to Meiji period

### Folk



Hanamaki clay *ningyo*, *Shiba Onko Breaking the Pot*, Edo period

### Creative



*Momotaro*, by Hirata Goyo, Showa period

### International



Toy from Thailand, papier-mâché elephant, 20th century

### Pictures and classic texts



*A Hundred Hina Designs*, edited by Kubota Beisai and Nishizawa Tekiho, 1915

### Classic



*Goshō ningyo*, *Nearly Nude Child*, Edo period



*Kamo ningyo*, *Seven Lucky Gods*, Edo period

### Nishizawa Tekiho and the Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum



Portrait of Nishizawa Tekiho at the Nishizawa Toy Culture Research Center (in his home), Showa period

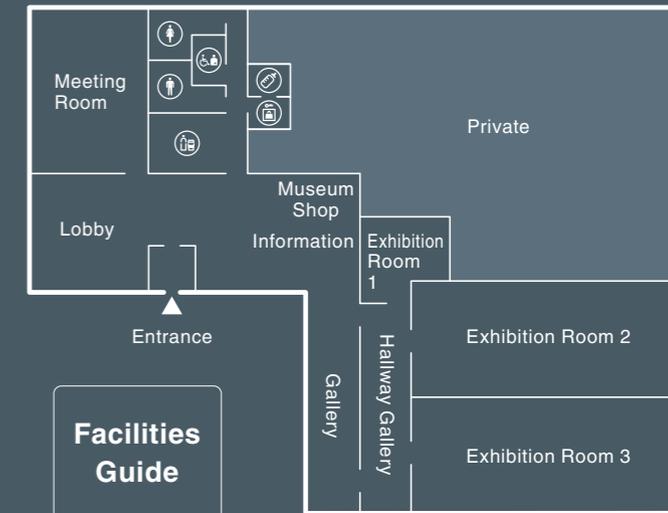
◎The core of the Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum holdings consists of the collection built by Nishizawa Tekiho (1889–1965). Tekiho was a *Nihonga* (modern Japanese-style painting) artist who is also known for his research on *ningyo* and toys and as a collector. He worked hard to develop and spread the culture of *ningyo*. The *ningyo* he collected are of high quality and cover a wide range of genres.

### [ Educational and Outreach Activities ]

The museum carries out lectures and hands-on workshops related to its exhibitions. Its programs are design to appeal to a wide age range, including adults as well as children. "See, learn, and make" are the keynotes of our programs to encourage greater understanding of *ningyo* and the culture of *ningyo*. Please take part!



Entrance hall



### Facilities Guide

- Women
- Men
- Multipurpose Toilet
- Drink Corner
- Nursery Room
- Coin Lockers

### [ Museum Shop and Cafe ]

The Museum Shop offers publications by the museum and a variety of original goods. Enjoy light meals and beverages in the Cafe.



Passage from the entrance on Urakoji Street